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Robert Mallet, Esq., read an account of a remarkable lunar halo on the night between the 10th and 11th instant:—

"At 12 o'clock, night, between the 10th and 11th February, 1854, looking from a southern window of my house (Delville, Glasnevin), I observed the nearly round disc of the moon, then thirteen days old, riding high in an almost clear heaven, and surrounded by a very large and perfectly circular halo. The size of the circle was such as to convey an idea of great grandeur, almost of awe, and the great comparative diminution of the apparent magnitude of the moon's disc within it, which really seemed as though it could be covered by a shilling, was equally striking.

"The annexed diagram is intended to represent the general appearance of the halo.

"I had no means of directly measuring the angle subtended by the inner edge of the ring, which, however, was so large as to be with difficulty kept within the field of vision with the eye fixed.

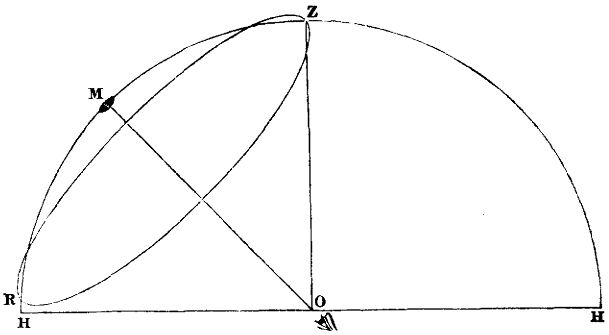
"The inner edge of the halo was well defined, and slightly tinted with prismatic red, passing outwards into orange and yellow, and the whole becoming evanescent into white vapoury mist or light cloud. The prevailing colour of the mass of the ring was that of white bright moon-illuminated cloud. The width of the distinguishable annulus (which was almost uniform all round) was from one-eighth to one-seventh of the internal diameter. Towards the lower part, the shading off into vapour assumed a streaky appearance, like scirrus cloud, and below the ring were larger surfaces of very light fleecy scirrus and cumulo stratus, clouds. One star of the third magnitude was clearly visible in the deep blue-gray surface inside the ring, which was free from any trace of vapour or cloud,—the other stars were lost in the moon's light. There was neither corona nor paraselene.

" The night was cold and frosty, the air dry and crisp, and pleasant to the feelings at the surface of the earth. The day had been remarkable fine and clear; the preceding night a clear one, with hard frost.

" There was little or no wind stirring at 12 o'clock, night, 10th–11th February. The barometer had been high for several days, and at 8 o'clock A. M. on the morning of the 11th February was 30·52 inches; thermometer on a northern exposure, 35° Fahr.

" The front of the house whence I looked is due south, the face ranging therefore E. and W. Looking out of window, and directly upwards with my eye as nearly as possible plumb under the edge of the stone cornice about twelve feet above me, I perceived that the interior of the upper limb of the ring almost exactly reached the zenith, and formed a tangent to the line of cornice.

" The moon's place being known, therefore, it is easy to find the apparent diameter of the ring.



Thus let HH be the horizon; O the place of the observer; Z the zenith; M, moon's place; ZR, apparent diameter of the halo.

"For the position of the moon I am indebted to our President, Dr. Robinson.

"The place of observation may be taken as—

Latitude, 53° 22′ 29″
Longitude, $0^h\ 25^m\ 12^s$

Then at 12, night, of 10th–11th February, 1854,—

Zenith distance of moon's centre	=	42° 38′ 29″
Parallax,	+	37′ 1″
Refraction,	−	57″
Apparent zenith distance of moon's centre, ...		43° 14′ 33″
Semi-diameter,	±	14′ 45″

This would give the apparent internal diameter of the ring about 86½ degrees, which would bring that of the densest and most highly illuminated part, at or near the yellow light, to about 90 degrees.

"This halo *may*, therefore (as suggested by Dr. Robinson), have been one of those formed by two refractions. The absence of any inner ring, however, throws some doubt upon this.

"The determination of the precise angles subtended by these halos is of interest. Dr. Young having shown that they depend upon refraction and reflexion from minute crystals of suspended ice, and Arago's experiment having proved that the light which passes has been polarized by refraction, it follows that the angle of the primary form of ice being assumed = 60° or 30°—measurements of this character afford the means of obtaining the possible *secondary crystalline forms* of ice crystals suspended in the higher regions of the atmosphere, and there produced under conditions likely to extend our knowledge, as yet so very limited, of some of the forces upon which secondary crystalline forms depend for their production.

“ It may be remarked, that Mr. Howard has recorded his observation that halos of this sort occurring in spring are usually succeeded by very hot weather.”

Mr. Mallet also read a paper containing notices of the facts of the British earthquake of 9th November, 1852.

On the part of Mrs. Lambert, of Lough Scur, Cashcarrigan, Rev. Dr. Todd presented a stone mould for casting bronze celts. He also presented, from William Wakeman, Esq., a rubbing from an inscribed stone in the island of Inis no Coill, in Lough Corrib, shown by Dr. Petrie to be the gravestone of Lugnat, son of Liemania, sister of St. Patrick.